AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

determining based on a comparison of geographic coordinates that ~~whether~~ a first portable digital device is within a specific geographic region around a second portable digital device;~~, wherein a size of the specific geographic region changes in response to a change in a location of the second portable digital device; and~~

detecting an attempted operation of a data recording function in response to the first portable digital device being located in the specific geographic region; and

inhibiting the data recording function ~~an operation~~ of the first portable digital device in response to ~~upon~~ receipt of a first inhibiting signal transmitted by the second portable digital device in response to the first portable digital device being located in the specific geographic region around the second portable digital device, wherein the inhibiting the data recording function comprises preventing a store operation relating to data captured by the data recording function.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising receiving a second inhibiting signal from a fixed location security station in the specific geographic region, and disabling at least one of an audio data recording function or an image data recording function of the first portable digital device in response to receipt of the first or second inhibiting signal.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising enabling at least one of an audio data recording function or an image data recording function in response to the first portable digital device being located outside the specific geographic region.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, further comprising repeating the second inhibiting signal by the first portable digital device to broaden coverage of the fixed location security station.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein inhibiting the operation comprises inhibiting the operation of at least one of an audio data recording function or an image data recording function of the first portable digital device in response to the first portable digital device being located in the specific geographic region.

6 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, further comprising determining a geographic location of the first portable digital device using a navigation module.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, further comprising determining a geographic location of the first portable digital device by triangulation of signals from at least two cellular base stations.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising storing data relating to the first portable digital device being present in the specific geographic region.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein inhibiting the operation comprises inhibiting the operation for at least a predetermined period of time.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

modifying a memory of the first portable digital device to indicate that the inhibiting of the operation has occurred, and

checking whether the memory has been modified to indicate that the inhibiting of the operation has occurred before allowing access to at least one of an audio data recording function or an image data recording function.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising receiving the first inhibiting signal at the first portable digital device using a communication scheme transmitting over at least one radio frequency.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, further comprising changing a frequency of the at least one radio frequency at an interval.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising communicating the first inhibiting signal to the first portable digital device as an audio signal or a signal transmitted at an optical frequency.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising accessing usage control code on the first portable digital device ~~for~~ and controlling usage of the first portable digital device as a function of the usage control code.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, further comprising initiating execution of the usage control code in a memory within the first portable digital device.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising modifying code within the first portable digital device relating to at least one of an audio data recording function and an image data recording function and preventing the code from being executed by the first portable digital device.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

detecting a disconnection of the first portable digital device from a communications network, and

preventing a modification to a store operation and a transmission operation relating to captured data ~~upon~~ in response to the detecting the disconnection of the first portable digital device.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, further comprising deleting the captured data from the first portable digital device.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, further comprising transmitting the captured data relating to the first portable digital device to a security entity.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising broadcasting a source-identifying signal to the specific geographical region.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein broadcasting the source-identifying signal comprises broadcasting an audio tone or a series of optical signals.

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 21, further comprising transmitting data sent over a network to a security entity ~~based on a determination of whether~~ as a function of the data including ~~includes~~ a recording of the source-identifying signal.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising disabling at least one function of the first portable digital device in response to receiving of a third inhibiting signal transmitted by a portable security station intermittently broadcasting the third inhibiting signal in the specific geographic region.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

detecting at a first portable digital device an attempted data recording function ~~transmission of data comprising a source-identifying signal broadcast~~ by a second portable digital device in a specific geographic region around the first portable digital device, and

sending [[an]] a first inhibiting signal to the second portable digital device to inhibit the attempted data recording function ~~transmission of data~~ by the second portable digital device by preventing a store operation related to data captured by the data recording function in response to determining, based on a comparison of geographic coordinates, that the second portable digital device is located in the specific geographic region around the first portable digital device~~,~~ ~~wherein a size of the specific geographic region changes in response to a change in location of the first portable digital device~~.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

~~operating~~ enabling an image data recording function on a portable digital device in response to an interrogation or an enabling signal from a central station;

initiating image data recording by the image data recording function; and

returning a recorded image to the central station in response to the interrogation or the enabling signal.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) A ~~tangible~~ computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, the instructions comprising:

instructions for determining, based on a comparison of geographic coordinates, [[if]] that a first portable digital device is located in a specific geographic region around a second portable digital device; and

instructions for inhibiting operation of a data recording application of the first portable digital device in response to the first portable digital device receiving [[an]] a first inhibiting signal transmitted by the second portable digital device and the first portable digital device being located in the specific geographic region, wherein the instructions for inhibiting further include instructions for preventing a store operation relating to data captured by the data recording application ~~a size of the specific geographic region changes in response to a change in location of the second portable digital device~~.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

an inhibited portable digital device ~~that~~ configured to receive an inhibiting signal; and

an inhibiting module of the inhibited portable digital device configured to determine, based on a comparison of geographic coordinates, that ~~whether~~ the inhibited portable digital device is within a specific geographic region around an inhibiting portable digital device, and inhibit operation of a data recording function of the inhibited portable digital device in response to the inhibited portable digital device being located in the specific geographic region around the inhibiting portable digital device, wherein the inhibiting module is further configured to prevent a store operation relating to data captured by the data recording function ~~a size of the specific geographic region changes in response to a change in location of the inhibiting portable digital device~~.